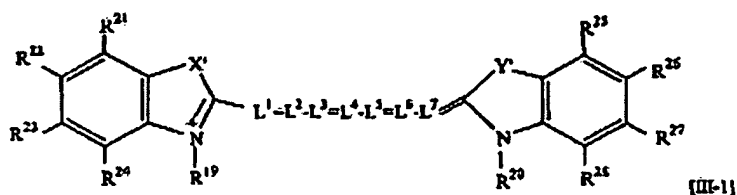


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A sodium salt of a compound of formula III-1 having three or more sulfonic acid groups in a molecule



wherein L^1 - L^7 are the same or different, each of L^1 - L^3 and L^5 - L^7 is substituted or unsubstituted methine and L^4 is methine substituted by alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and substituted by a sulfonic acid group, R^{19} and R^{20} are lower alkyl having 1 to 5 carbon atoms and are substituted by a sulfonic acid group, R^{21} - R^{28} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a sulfonic acid group, a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkyl(sulfoalkyl)amino group, a bis(sulfoalkyl)amino group, a sulfoalkoxy group, a (sulfoalkyl)sulfonyl group or a (sulfoalkyl)aminosulfonyl group, and X' and Y' are the same or different and each is a group of the formula